Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13260 101000Z ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SSM-03 L-03 /104 W -------067324 101415Z /46

R 100853Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8152 USDA FAS WASHDC INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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DEPARTMENT PASS AID

ALEXANDRIA FOR AMBASSADOR

FAS PASS OGSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EAID, EG

SUBJECT: UNLOADING OF PL-480 WHEAT IN PORT SAID

REF: (A) CAIRO 12931, (B) CAIRO 12992

ON RETURN AUGUST 8-9 TRIP TO PORT SAID, NONRESIDENT CONSUL REPORTS STATUS MARINE SHIPPING CORP. (MSC) AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. AS OF JULY 31, ALL YANXILAS WHEAT HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED OUT OF PORT SAID AND MSC DISCHARGING AREA WAS COMPLETELY CLEARED OF WHEAT (HAD REACHED MAXIMUM 18,000 TONS JULY 19).
- 2. MINSUPPLY AUTHORIZED MSC BEGIN OFFLOADING STRATHEARN AUGUST 1 UNDER PROVISO THAT NO MORE THAN 500 TONS BE AMASSED ON DISCHAGING AREA. IN INTERIM SINCE DEPARTURE YANXILAS, BRUER HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 13260 101000Z

IMPLACED FOUR HOPPER ALONG HIS CONVEYOR SYSTEM, SO AS TO REDUCE NEED FOR PILING UP WHEAT.

3. DURING FIRST WEEK AUGUST SUFFICIENT TRUCKS AND LABORERS WERE PROVIDED TO KEEP PACE WITH MSC'S RATE OF DISCHAGE, WHICH EXCEEDED 2,500 M TONS PER DAY. THIS REPRESENTS CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT, SINCE BRUER HAS ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO

EXCEED RATE OF DISCHAGE AVERAGED FOR THE YANXILAS, WITHOUT CREATING SIGNIFICANT BUILD UP OF WHEAT ON DISCHARGING AREA. TRANSPORT PROBLEM HAS APPARENTLY BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH USE OF PRIVATE TRUCKS (SEE REF B.)

- 4. IF PRESENT RATE OF DISCHARGE/TRANSPORT IS MAINTAINED, BRUER ANTICIPATES FINISHING STRATHEARN ON AUGUST 19. THIRD SHIP, PERICLES HALCOUSIS, A 70,000 TON BULK CARRIER LADEN WITH 56,000 M TONS PL 480 WHEAT FROM LOUISIANA, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE O/A AUGUST 17. BRUER NOTES THAT TRANSPORT COST FOR PERICLES HALCOUSIS, AS WAS CASE FOR BOTH YANXILAS AND STRATHEARN, IS \$11.50 PER M TON. THIS COMPARES WITH \$17.50 PER M TON FOR SHIPS CARRYING WEHAT TO ALEXANDRIA.
- 5. ARTICLE APPEARING IN JULY 31 EDITION OF ARABIC-LANGUAGE MAGAZINE ROSE AL-JUSEF, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS REPEATED IN AUGUST 4 EDITORIAL OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF WHEAT MUDDLE IN PORT SAID. ARTICLE WAS WILDLY ERRONEOUS IN ITS FACTS BUT MAY HAVE BEEN THE NECESSARY INGREDIENT TO SPUR MIN SUPPLY TO RESOLVE TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

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